



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of October 21, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:22 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Pastor Paden followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll Call:

Mayor Angelyne Butler
Councilmembers: Dabouze Antoine, Kimberly James, Sandra Bagley, Latresa Wells and Allan Mears

Also present were City Manager Angela Redding, Director of Finance Ken Thompson, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Chief Eddie Buckholts, Chief Nathaniel Clark, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell, Deputy Director Recreation and Leisure Services Abbey Jones, Interim Director of Planning, Building and Zoning Mike Tuttle, City Clerk Shalonda Brown, City Attorney Michael Williams and Management Analyst LaShawn Gardiner.

Comment Period:

Carl Evans – stated businesses have been complaining about Code Enforcement harassing them about advertising. He stated we need to be drawing businesses in instead of running them off. He stated maybe they should look at the contract for Baker Tilley and see if there was a timeline included and possibly go after them for breach of contract.

Isabelle Martene – stating she is helping her community. She stated we all should work together to fix the city. There are some people who are not doing their job. She stated some people are trying to intimidate her as she brings others in to vote. Ms. Martene stated she loves Forest Park.



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JaQuia Banks – stated Councilwoman Latresa Akins-Wells is her mom and she wanted to speak on the incident concerning her mom. She stated that she was 14 years old at the time and to think that someone was watching our home and her 9 year old brother at the time made her feel so violated. She stated she is constantly watching over her shoulders to see who’s watching because of the work her mom does for the community. How would you all feel if it was your family or your kids? How can you feel like it is ok, because it’s not? Miss Banks stated she hopes whoever is responsible for this is held accountable for their actions. She hopes that one day this community can come together until we do it seems like this will continue.

Adrienne Ellis – stated she appreciates the change and the direction the city is moving. She stated where the city is going compared to what was, is the right direction. She suggests let’s move forward and create jobs. She stated Councilwoman Wells is her cousin and she is passionate about her city and sometimes it is taken the wrong way.

Jaquez Wells – stated he would like to speak on the incident involving his home. He thanked all of the Police Officers that came forth and told the truth, there are not a lot of bad apples in the bunch and they are being weened out. He stated he has been a lifelong resident of Forest Park and this is not ok. The citizens who are giving backlash, if it was your family what would you do?



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Eliot Lawrence – stated he commended the Mayor for an outstanding meeting and greet and she did a fantastic job and it was first class. Mr. Lawrence stated his background is High School Career Development training and CEFGA is a good place you can trust and a great organization that get things done.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the following minutes: Special Called Meeting September 11, 2019, Work Session of September 16, 2019, Regular Meeting September 16, 2019, Work Session October 7, 2019, October 7, 2019 and Special Called Meeting October 15, 2019. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Administer Oath of Office
Tarik Maxwell:**

Mayor Angelyne Butler administered the Oath of Office to Tarik Maxwell as the Director of Recreation and Leisure Services.

**Consider Approval of
Christmas Decoration:**

A request was made to Consider the 75 new pole mounted Christmas Decoration with LED lighting, 3 ground-mount decoration with LED lighting and 4000 feet of LED rope lighting all to replace worn and defective decorations.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the request. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider Approval of
Visitor's Log:**

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve a visitor's log. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Councilman Antoine asked what this is for. Councilwoman Bagley stated when visiting other municipalities, they have a visitor's log. This will allow us to keep track of visitors (businesses or residents) that come to city hall.

Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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Consider a Request to relocate property:

A request was made by Ms. Kyrisha Johnson asking permission from the governing body to relocate a house into the city limits of Forest Park.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve this request. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Councilman Mears asked Mr. Tuttle if the property can be moved and tied in and he replied yes. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Governing Body Comments:

Councilman Mears – no

Councilwoman Wells - thanked everyone for coming out and stated she wanted to speak on what her daughter and husband spoke on earlier. She stated if you didn't go through it or your family didn't go through I don't see how you think its ok. It is illegal and should not have ever happened. Councilwoman Wells stated put yourself in my shoes and think how you would feel if someone followed you around for 3 years and cameras mounted outside your home for 3 years. She stated but an ex-mayor can get drunk, cuss out his neighbors and the police officers get on TV and take up for him, but you state racism don't exist. She stated she is going to speak on it because it is happening and if you don't want to realize that's what it is then maybe you are a part of the problem. The people didn't elect her to be quiet and she is going to have a voice and speak her mind. If you have someone that is a yes person and go along with whatever just to get along then they don't need to be here. Councilwoman Wells stated if you always speaking on negative things and don't see anything positive going on in your community then move. Councilwoman Wells stated for the comment about her following someone, which came from her opponents mom, they are trying to do any and everything but the right thing to win



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the election. She stated it is a disgrace to bring political stuff here where city business is being handled. Councilwoman Wells stated she doesn't have time to follow anyone she has her own business, a daughter in college and a son that plays every sport as well as citizens of Forest Park to focus on and she doesn't have time to follow anybody. She stated they are in the same place at the same time bringing people vote. She stated she will continue to speak her mind and continue to be a voice for the people of Forest Park.

Councilwoman Bagley – no comments

Councilwoman James - Councilwoman James stated she would like to speak about some of the positive things going on. She stated she attended the forum and a question the Mayor asked was “what are some of the positives in Forest Park?” Councilwoman James stated she would like to highlight some of the positives. We have a city manager that is doing an excellent job, Kroger and Ocado that selected Gillem Logistics for their next fulfillment center creating jobs in Forest Park, a truck stop that is closing to make room for a RaceTrac station, there are new MARTA bus stops and shelters being installed at various locations and the City was featured on WSB-TV. She stated there are great things going on in Forest Park and we have to open up our eyes to see what is going on in our city.

Councilwoman Wells - Councilwoman Wells stated one more thing on a positive note. She stated they had Fun Friday and Mayor Butler got some backlash about not coming out and she can come if she wants that her choice. She stated she is glad that she came to this event and they had the chance to talk about moving the city forward and she is happy that they are



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attempting to get on one accord. Councilwoman Wells stated she knows people like to hear negative things and the bickering going back and forth, but that will not be happening anymore. In order to move the city forward you have to be the example. She commended Mayor Butler for doing an amazing job.

Mayor Butler - stated she would like to add to what Councilwoman James stated and add HD Supply's headquarters is at Gillem also. She said to piggyback on what Councilwoman Wells stated, in life there is a choice and you can choose A or B and in that moment we choose to put whatever differences we may have had to the side and realize it is very minute compared to the vision they both have for the city and they are consciously making an effort and employ the rest of the governing body to join them in that so they can truly move the city forward. She stated there is more to come that they all can benefit from. Mayor Butler stated if we can just sit down together they are all saying pretty much the same things. Mayor Butler stated to each of the governing body members "if there is anything that I have said or done to you I am publicly apologizing to you". She stated it is time that we all put it to the side and get to work.

Councilman Antoine - stated there is a big storm coming and if anyone has power outages he has a connection with Georgia Power. He stated he hopes the trees don't come down.

Councilman Mears made a motion to recess the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session. It was seconded by Councilwoman



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Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

The governing body entered into Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.

Councilman Mears made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session @ 8:08 p.m. and reconvene the regular meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Amend the Agenda:

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to amend the agenda. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilwoman Wells stated at the last meeting one of the investors mentioned the restroom on Main Street and she agrees with him because that would not be a good look. Mrs. Redding stated this was adopted by the LCI Plan that was adopted by another governing body. She stated she understands his concerns. She stated the restrooms will not be open 24/7. She stated it is the will of the governing body.

Councilman Mears stated he spoke with the gentleman and he stated he has spoken with other businesses on Main Street and they are not in favor of the bathroom. Mrs. Redding stated she has not heard anything from any business about not wanting the bathroom there.

Councilwoman Wells stated they should take into consideration what the developers that want to invest so much money in our city. Mrs. Redding stated she's meeting with the business owners on the 29th and she will ask them about the



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bathroom. She stated Mr. Bernard is the only person she has heard that from in a negative way. She suggests a special called meeting to discuss these items.

Adjournment:

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.